

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A device for removing proteases from biological fluids and pharmaceutical solutions comprising a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, said housing containing a plurality of membranes arranged therein in series, wherein said membranes each consist essentially of ~~an epoxy-functionalized a~~ microporous membrane ~~body~~ containing epoxy groups chemically coupled to at least one protease inhibitor via said epoxy groups, wherein said at least one protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of pepstatin, bestatin, diproten, antipain, chymostatin, leupeptin, E64, TLCK and p-aminobenzamidine.

12-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The device of claim 11 wherein said membranes each contain two different protease inhibitors.

15. (previously presented) A method for removing proteases from fluids comprising feeding a protease-containing fluid to the device of claim 14.

16. (cancelled)